

2009 Butte Season Opens With *The Fantasticks*

An all-new summer season of musical fun begins June 5 at Cripple Creek' Butte Theater.

The Fantasticks takes the stage June 5 with a classic musical love story. The 1960 favorite by Harvey Schmidt, as produced by Thin Air Theatre Company, is the story of 2 mothers who use reverse psychology to ensure that their children fall in love. After the children fall in love, they discover their mothers' plot and they each go off to experience the world. They later return to each other and the love they had, having learned from the world and made a sound decision.

The show's original production off-Broadway ran for 17,162 performances, becoming the world's longest-running musical, for 42 years. The book and score include such familiar songs such as *Try to Remember*. Melodrama veteran actor Mel Moser will perform in the show, as well as David Craven and Laurie Sutton from last year's production of *Oklahoma!*. The show will be directed by Mickey Burdick, who is a Thin Air Theatre Company member, theater manager, long-time Butte actor, and writer.

In downtown Cripple Creek, the Butte offers family fun in the midst of a variety of restaurants and casinos. The summer will include *The Fantasticks*, which runs through Sept. 26, as well as the popular 1970's musical *Godspell*, which opens June 12. The two shows will rotate alternating days and times (1 and 7 p.m.). This year the new schedule includes more matinees and an addition day of performances. The theater will be open Wednesday through Monday, closed only on Tuesdays, providing a variety of times and days to meet any schedule.

Group bookings are available for all four 2009 Thin Air Theatre Company shows - two popular musicals, *The Fantasticks* and *Godspell*, an all new classic melodrama, *The Last Soul of Cripple Creek*, and a popular Butte original – *A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol*. The traditional classic melodrama, a long time Cripple Creek favorite outing, has moved to October, followed by a Halloween Olio sure to rock the spirits in the theater.

Ticket prices are: \$15.75 Adult; \$13.75 Senior; \$9.75 Children; \$12.75 for groups of 20-plus.

For more information and select a date and time that works best for you from the schedule of summer shows, visit ButteOperaHouse.com. You can also easily book your tickets online on the website.